



in the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Application Number: 10/092,281  
Application Filed: 03/06/03  
Applicant: Durham Russell Maples, Camden, SC;

Application Title: Method of Separation by Altering Molecular Structures  
Examiner: Joseph C. Rodriguez

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### Amendment A

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Mr. Joseph C. Rodriguez:

In response to the Office Letter mailed October 4, 2003, please amend the above application as follows:

### Remarks

1. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the constructive suggestions to the claims in the application. The Examiner will observe that the Applicant has amended all the claims to reflect the Examiner's suggestions regarding anticipation of prior art and indefinite claim language. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner continue with such constructive suggestions throughout the examination process of this application.

2. All references supplied by Examiner have been reviewed and considered.

A. The Examiner cites the Vinson reference as a guideline to write the claims in the application in the correct format stating steps must use the gerund verb form. The Examiner uses the examples of patents Vinson, Holmes, Youn, Palm et.al. to demonstrate the proper claim format recommended by the Examiner.

B. Patents McCarry, Bulatovic, Borengo et al., Petrovich, and Horowitz are references that contain froth flotation as the mechanical means of separation. Froth flotation is described in Bulatovic et al. 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the specification. Froth flotation does not require an alteration of a molecular structure. Froth flotation is different from specific gravity flotation and was not a mechanical method of separation the applicant intended for the invention claimed. As explained in Bulatovic et al. froth flotation is a surface treatment. Any oxidation occurring has to do with the state of the valence electrons and does not alter the molecular structure of any substance in the combination or mixture. In Petrovich the NH<sub>2</sub> molecular structure is altered but the NH<sub>2</sub> is an additive reactant, not